

[1 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

- Average concentration of total organochlorine was 6.97 ppb in all the 57 samples.
- Average concentration organophosphorous pesticides was 4.88 ppb in all the 57 samples
- Average concentration of total pesticides detected in all 57 samples was 11.85 which is 24 times the BIS limit for total pesticide in soft drinks.

In order to examine the facts contained in the CSE Report on Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare constituted an Expert Committee to examine the methodology of sampling, methodology of testing and validity, as well as the consistency of results derived by CSE

After detailed deliberation on the report of CSE, the Expert Committee concluded that the results and conclusions reached by CSE in their report cannot be accepted on its face value. The detailed report of the Expert Committee is available on the website of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (www.mohfw.nic.in)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already constituted a National Expert Committee to guide pesticide residue Sub-Committee of fixation of MRIs of pesticides in carbonated beverages, fruits vegetable juices and other finished products.

State/UT Governments which are the implementing authorities under the PFA Act have been advised to ensure regular sampling of soft drinks to ensure quality standards are maintained. A total of 155 soft drinks samples were tested by Central Food Labs at Kolkata, Mysore and Pur ,, as well as State Food Lab, Gujarat Between July, 2006 to September, 2006 and as per reports received from testing laboratories pesticide residues were found below the limits specified for bottled drinking water in all tested samples.

New cancer drug

1119. SHRIKALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Bangalore based drug manufacturer has succeeded in

producing an affordable and effective therapeutic antibody-based cancer drug, for treating solid tumours of epithelial origin, such as erupting in the head and neck;

(b) if so, the details of success rate achieved in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government have taken for patenting and popularizing of this drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to the information collected by Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, monoclonal antibody drug which is useful for treatment of head and neck cancer is produced by a Cuban company which hold its patent right. A Bangalore based pharma company has been permitted to manufacture & market the drug on 30.8.2006.

Regulations to control toxic and unbranded toys

1120. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARATAIMUR:
SHRIVIJAYJ.DARDA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that unbranded toys have been found to have much higher levels of cadmium which is a neurotoxin and it can lead to brain damage amongst children;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken or contemplated to be taken by Government to save millions of our vulnerable children who are being exposed to risk everyday; and

(c) whether Government would take into consideration the first public study about presence of lead on PVC by Arizona Health Department in 1999 so that the Bureau of Indian Standards could lay down standards to be enforced on the toy manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Recently, a news